C.121.g.6(27)

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,

HEAR with Patience the Words of one who ſcorns to deceive you, and who intreats you not to run into the Pit that is prepared for you; You are miſled by wicked and falſe Men to oppoſe an Act, which is the only Means of preſerving your Liberty, your Families, your Property and Lives againſt the *French*; and above all, to reſiſt *Popery* and *Slavery*.

Printed Papers are ſtuck up every where to alarm you, which are full of Falſehoods, ſaying you are to be ſent for Soldiers, and to be ſent abroad; whereas, the MILITIA ACT declares the very contrary, and that being a Militia Man you ſhall not be liable to be preſſed for Land or Sea Service. Go any of you quietly to any Gentleman in your Neighbourhood, conſult any of your neighbouring Clergymen, of whom there are many of great Worth and Truth, they will ſhew you the Act of Parliament, and that it is expreſsly declared therein, that no One can preſs you to go out of the Kingdom; That you are to be Exerciſed but one Day in a Fortnight for Eight Months in the Year, for which you are to have One Shilling each Day; and four Days in Whitſun Holidays, being allowed alſo One Shilling for each Day; That you are to be Militia Men for three Years only, and not to ſerve again until every Man in the Pariſh has ſerved in his Turn: And in thoſe Counties where the Militia Men have been ballotted for, it has fell to the Share of one Man in Thirty-five to be a Militia Man; in ſome other Counties, not above one in Forty or Forty-five; and in caſe it ſhould be made to appear to the Deputy Lieutenants or Juſtices of the Peace, that any Man amongſt you ſuffers in his Situation of Family Circumſtances by being a Militia Man, they have a Power of relieving him; nor are you ever to march out of your Counties, but when the *French* are coming to overrun and lay waſte your Country: Is it not better at that Time my Friends to be Soldiers than Slaves? That is to ſay, Is it not better to be enabled to defend your ſelves, your Houſes, your Wives and Families, than to be oppreſſed and hunted by a Nation, which formerly uſed to fly before *Engliſhmen* upon their meer Approach.

Conſider how long they have butchered your Countrymen and Relations abroad in *America*. Conſider how often they have invaded your Country, and endeavoured to put a Popiſh Prince upon the Throne. Remember the Year Forty Six, when a few ragged *Highlanders* were near impoſing another King and another Religion upon you, and marched from their Barren Mountains into the Heart of your Fertile Country, and had Triumphed, had not a favourable Wind providentially brought over the Duke of CUMBERLAND and his Troops from *Flanders* for your Safety———when you trembling like Women, and flying from Danger, muſt otherwiſe have ſubmitted to a Foreign Yoke: See the *French* ſurrounding your Coaſt, Behold how they plunder and ravage every Kingdom in *Europe*; Can you expect any thing, but that your Cowardice will invite them. Is it too much Trouble or Hardſhip for an *Engliſhman* to learn Twenty Days in a Year how to defend himſelf, his Country, and Family? How different is your Situation by this Militia from what it would be and may be in the Army. In the latter you are always under Authority and liable to be ſent to any Part of the Globe, and if you now by your Refuſal to ſerve in the Militia render it neceſſary to have a much greater Army, many of you who now refuſe this natural Duty to your Country, may be obliged to ſerve in that Army, which the Safety of this Country requires. If Volunteers don't engage in the Army, and it is neceſſary to have more Troops, Men muſt be got one way or other, the Kingdom muſt not be given up to the Enemy, becauſe a ſeditious and falſe Leader of the Multitude miſguides their Minds, and turns their Arms againſt their Mother Country. I repeat it again, that you are miſinformed and abuſed by thoſe, who when the Enemy marched but lately into the Heart of your Country, did not ſhew their Faces, but trembled and ſhut themſelves up in their Houſes. Will thoſe who publiſh theſe Papers (my good Friends) to perſwade you to deſert your Mother Country, will they defend you? What will you ſay to theſe Men if the *French* ſhould come and drive you and your Families before them like a Flock of Sheep, if they carry you away into Bondage, if they ſet a Price upon the Scalp of every Proteſtant in this Country, as they have long ſince done in *America*?

What will you ſay or think of your preſent Adviſers in that Day of Calamity? You will then wiſh you had learnt to defend your ſelves, and had embraced that Meaſure which the general Senſe of the Gentlemen of your County, and every Man of Senſe and Reflection thought neceſſary for your Preſervation, but which One Man alone by his Agents and Servants now ſeduces you to oppoſe by every Act of Violence or Rage.

I call upon you once more, if the leaſt Sentiment of *Engliſhmen* remains in you, to reflect that your Country cannot periſh without your Miſery. Your Duty towards your God, your King, your Country, and your Families, all require your Aſſiſtance; at leaſt read or enquire into this Act before you run headlong to your own Deſtruction. Accept this from a Friend to juſt Laws, and a Well wiſher to the County of *Norfolk*.